Refinement and Optimization of Streaming Architectures

Don Batory and Taylor Riché
Department of Computer Science
University of Texas at Austin

Introduction

- **Model Driven Engineering (MDE)** is paradigm that will be increasing important to SW design & development
  
  - focus on problem essentials, not accidental complexity
  - frees us from low-level programming languages, platforms
  - way of the future…. with some interesting implications

- Today’s presentation: a different view on MDE
  
  - not the way MDE is practiced today
  - show how sequential architectures (models) can be mapped to parallelized or crash-fault-tolerant architectures (models) in a way that can be explained, verified, built, and tested in a systematic manner
Streaming Architectures

- Implementing **Byzantine Fault Tolerant (BFT)** and **Recoverable Crash-Fault-Tolerant (RCFT) Servers**
  - architectures of these servers are so complicated, we had to find a way to convince ourselves of the correctness of our designs
  - small handful of experts know how to build these servers
    » about ½ seem to be at UTexas 😊
  - need systematic way to help explain, verify, build, and test

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Trustworthy Software

- SE researchers propose “theories” to capture domain expertise using domain-independent principles
  - results are repeatable, development is structured, understandable…

- Researchers and practitioners who build systems ignore the theory and ideas – after all, how hard could SWD be??

- Not the point: underlying domain-specific SWD are basic and simple principles that **everyone** should understand
  - improve quality of software by the way we build, verify, test our designs
  - science behind software design
Stepwise Development

- Classical & fundamental way to control design complexity
  - our work builds on results of a long line of pioneers
    (Labview 80, Gorlick 92, Broy 92, Moriconi 94, Garlan 96, Rumpe 97, Kong 03, Clarke 06, …)
  - use a standard component-connector model of application
  - elaborate it by simple transformations
  - use standard notion of hierarchical refinements (transformations)

Hierarchical Refinement is Not Enough!

- **Controversial**: adding new relationships are essential
  - “extend” boxes with new ports, new capabilities

- **New**: optimizations are essential
  - break abstraction boundaries to achieve efficiency or availability
  - how non-functional “features” or “qualities” are added by transformations
With These Missing Pieces

- Show how complex architectures designed by experts can be:
  - explained incrementally
  - verified incrementally
  - built incrementally
  - tested incrementally

by non-experts from first principles – two very different domains recoverable crash-fault-tolerant servers and join parallelization in database machines

- Taking first steps toward applying fault-tolerance to arbitrary streaming applications
- Not just “cute” (nice-to-have)
- Essential to accomplish the above

  - experts create these designs with implicit knowledge
  - by making principles explicit, non-experts like you and me can participate and appreciate the challenge that experts face & techniques they use

Series of Mini-Talks

we are here

Basics of Streaming Architecture Designs  

Recoverable Crash-Fault-Tolerant Servers

Hash Joins in Database Machines  

Conclusions
#1: Basics of Streaming Architectures

- **Component-Connector Architecture** is a directed graph
  - box: component or computation
  - arrow: communication path for messages, tuples drawn in direction of data flow

- Semantics of box is clear from context

```
A → SORT → sort(A)
```

- Elide unnecessary details (sort key, sort order)
Hierarchical Refinement

- Refinement is a transformation
  - input pattern $\rightarrow$ output pattern

- All transformations we use can be proven correct
  - algebraic identity
  - simple enough that intuition suffices

- Correct by Construction
Testing

• Most details are not captured in architecture diagrams
  • whether SORT box works correctly
  • typically boxes don’t have proofs of correctness – need to test

"Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct, not tried it."
-- Donald Knuth

Module (Unit) Test

Testing Refinements

We identify tests at every level of abstraction. The validity of these tests (properties) must hold after every refinement. So as details are revealed, we accumulate tests to verify the correctness of our implementation.

Integration or System Test
Key: Optimizations

- Break encapsulations to achieve non-functional properties
  - efficiency or availability
  - applying algebraic identities that do not change design semantics

Exchanges

- Optimizations that reorder *stateless* computations
  - ex: property that each $A_i$ message is assigned to a single $B_j$ stream

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Same HSPLIT box (hash same attributes, same hash function)
Optimizations and Tests

- Optimizations play havoc with tests
- Tests must be transformed

Rule: testing may reintroduce components & connectors eliminated by optimizations

Lastly, Extensions

- A transformation can extend the capabilities of a box and add new connectors

- Extensions add “features”

- Accomplished by preprocessors 
  #ifdef inclusion of extra code

- Or by more sophisticated means
Recap

• Component-connector architecture is a model
  • transformations progressively elaborate models
  • each applies a behavioral substitutions (Liskov)
  • each is a refinement or optimization

• Every transformation is simple and can be proven correct
• Tests verify implementations

• Now, let look at some real examples…

#2: Recoverable Crash-Fault-Tolerant Servers
Overview

- Sequential vanilla server architecture has a cylinder topology
- Unroll cylinder by breaking along the seam

Our Goal

- Transform a vanilla server architecture to a Recoverable, Crash-Fault-Tolerant Server
  - consider CFT transformations first
  - recovery transformations last
Crash-Fault-Tolerance

• Ability of a service to survive a number of failures

• **Failure** – when a box stops processing messages
  • no messages pass through a failed box
  • a failed box cannot create new messages
  • *assume each box executes on its own machine*
    
    – but multiple boxes can run on single machine
    – if machine fails, all boxes on that machine fail
    – failures do not propagate across machine boundaries

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Standard Failure Assumptions

• Failures of network components

  serializer (➡️)
  demultiplexor (➡️)
  broadcast (⦁)

  affect a machine the same as pure software boxes
  • ex: a machine can’t process requests if its network card stops working

• Don’t depend on synchronous networks
  • do expect eventual synchrony
  • use **retransmissions** (in application, network protocol, or both) to deal with transient packet loss
Technical Goal of CFT

• **Eliminate** **Single Points of Failure (SPoF)**
  - a failure of a single box (machine) causing the server abstraction to fail
  - our current design has 3 SPoFs

• “Solve” problem by box replication
  - not only solution – we follow most advanced solution to date
  - to appear SOSP 2009

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Step 1: Agreement

• Add an agreement node $A^\perp$
• $A^\perp$ is an ordered queue of messages, passing messages one at a time to the server
• In effect, $A^\perp$ does nothing it is a place holder for later refinements

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Next steps replicate $A^\perp$, S boxes
Step 2a: Replicate $A^\perp$ Boxes

- Make $m$ copies of $A^\perp$
- Client requests are routed by box $R_t$ to *some or all* $A$ replicas
- $A$ replicas run an agreement protocol (Lamport 1998) to decide which is the next client message to process
- A replicas vote and a quorum is taken by $QA$; when a sufficient number of identical messages is received, $QA$ forwards the message
- Refinement emulates abstraction of a single queue

Pause...

- The $A$ replicas talk to each other; topology is conical
Pause...

- Why are A replicas needed?
- Ans#1: tolerate failure of multiple A boxes
tolerate $f$ failures, need $m = 2f + 1$ replicas of A

Step 2b: Replicate Servers

- Make $k$ copies of server
- Each server receives exactly the same sequence of messages from the $A^\perp$ abstraction
- QS collects a quorum of identical messages; transmits message if a sufficient number of copies are received
- Refinement emulates abstraction of a single correct server

![Diagram showing replication of servers and quorum system]
• Why are A replicas needed?

• Ans#2: a consistent order of requests is essential for correct server behavior

• If S replicas processed client requests in different orders, server replica states would diverge and responses from different servers for a single client request would be inconsistent

• Inconsistencies violate the one-correct-server abstraction
Where We Are Going

- Apply optimizations (exchanges) to eliminate SPoFs
- Define new (green) abstractions, and replace them with implementations that have no SPoFs

Step 3a: (↑,Rt) Exchange

- Each client request is sent to a subset of A replicas
Step 3b: (▸, Q, ◆) Exchange

- Each quorum-decided request from replicated A boxes is delivered to all Server replicas

Step 3c: (▸, QS, ◄) Exchange

- Each quorum-decided response from replicated S boxes is received by a client box
Why So Simple?

- All exchanges involve stateless computations
  - state would require a heavy-weight solution (agreements, etc.)

Final CFT Result

No SPoF
Testing CFT Systems

Really Quick (!) Tour of Recovery Transformations
Overview

• Just as databases can recover from machine failures, so too can servers

• Recovery limits the situations where clients see unresponsive server abstraction

• Recovery is added by a series of transformations, not unlike the transformations to add CFT
Changes: New Relationships

CFT Server Architecture

Servers now talk to A boxes (new relationships are added)

Recoverable CFT Server Architecture

A and S boxes are extended (new ports, capabilities added)

incrementally adding features to existing boxes
Quick Recap

- Incrementally explained design created by experts to map a vanilla server to a recoverable, crash-fault-tolerant server
  - withstand failures
  - we are using component-connectors to explain, automate their designs

- Still a lot of engineering left to do; but our design provides guidance on how to build, test these systems incrementally

- Now look at a very different domain where a sequential architecture is mapped to a parallel architecture using exactly the same principles

#3: Parallelizing Hash Joins in Database Machines
Gamma Database Machine

- Gamma was (maybe still is) the most sophisticated relational database machine ever built in academics
  - University of Wisconsin late 1980's early 1990s

- Look at how hash joins were parallelized
  - fundamental result in parallelizing joins
  - representative of commercial systems today
  - presented in a new way
  - derive Gamma hash join architecture from first principles

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Sequential Hash Join Architecture

- Hash join takes 2 streams of tuples (A,B) as input and produces the join of these streams (A*B)

- Algorithm:
  - read all of stream A into memory in a hash table
  - read B stream one record at a time;
    - hash B’s record and join it to all A record’s with the same key
  - linear algorithm

- How did Gamma’s Designers parallelize HJOIN?
Because joins are the most complex operator, increase efficiency by reducing the size of its input streams.

- Used Bloom filters to eliminate B tuples that do not join with A tuples.
Bloom filtering is a common technique for disqualifying tuples from further processing.

Algorithm:
- Clear bit map $M$.
- Read each $A$ tuple, hash its key, and mark corresponding bit in $M$.
- Output each tuple $A$.
- After all $A$ tuples read, output $M$.

The filtering part of Bloom filters eliminates $B$ tuples that cannot join with $A$ tuples.

Algorithm:
- Read bit map $M$.
- Read each tuple of $B$, hash its key: if corresponding bit in $M$ is not set, discard tuple (as it will never join with $A$ tuples).
- Else output tuple.
The First Refinement

• Expose inner details of HJOIN box
• Can prove correctness of this refinement

Testing

• As we refine, we accumulate and apply tests at every level of abstraction
Parallelize Each Box in This Architecture:

- Algorithm:
  - HSPLIT stream A
  - compute Bloom filter on each substream
  - reconstitute stream A
  - form merge bit maps to produce single bit map M
Parallelization of **BFILTER Box**

- **Algorithm:**
  - split $M$ into $M_1 \ldots M_n$ and distribute
  - hash split stream $B$
  - filter $B$ substreams in parallel
  - reconstitute stream $B'$

- always hash split streams $A$ and $B$ using the same hash function! This gives us properties on which to optimize!

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Parallelization of **HJOIN Box**

- **Algorithm:**
  - split both streams using same hash function
  - $A$ and $B$ tuples can join only if they have the same hash key
  - perform $n$ joins (rather than $n^2$) in parallel
  - reconstitute join
• Substitute parallel implementations for each box
• Note 3 optimizations are possible
• Here are the first two…

Hierarchical Refinement

A Better View

• Stream A is hash split into $A_1\ldots A_n$, reconstituted, then hash split again
• MERGE – HSPLIT combination is the identity map
• Optimization – get rid of MERGE-HSPLIT
• Same for stream B
Still one more optimization to perform…

Elegant

Easier to remember the derivation than the design itself (!)

Each step can be proven correct, so the final design is correct

Not whole picture: exchange rewrites are applied when HJOIN boxes are composed see our paper or original Gamma papers
• “Octopus-like” harness for test of BFILTER box
• Again, a lot of engineering is still left, but we have a clear big picture on how to proceed…

#4: Conclusions and Future Work
State of Art

- Experts create and build non-obvious architectures that take time to understand
  - details are accessible to only domain experts and only after a considerable effort to appreciate
  - our experience confirms this, but offers hope…
  - by revealing domain knowledge incrementally in the context of MDE where details of architecture models are progressively revealed, *non-experts can participate and contribute in their construction*

Observations

- Clear that ideas are being reinvented in different contexts
  - not accidental – evidence we are working toward general paradigm

- Starting down a road that we (community) must travel
  - affords new opportunities to improve “trustworthiness”
  - can verify architectures (which we didn’t have or couldn’t do before)
  - make architecture design, testing, and explanation easier and more structured before
  - expose domain-independent principles underlying software design
Another Perspective

- Don't create complex designs instantaneously
- Come from simpler designs, recursively
- Showing relationship of simple designs to complex designs enables us to understand and verify our designs, build and test them better
- Ideas are not just “cute” – essential to above goals

Next Steps: More Examples + …

- MDE-based tool set to allow designers to explore interactively a design space by defining and composing transformations
- To be able to synthesize systems from these models
- Providing a new dimension of activities in MDE
- Vary designs in a verifiable way
Thank you!